

IC-75-1323

22 January 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: USIB Membership for the Energy Research and
Development Administration (ERDA)

1. ERDA's assimilation of AEC prompted Mr. Proctor to question ERDA's qualification for USIB membership. He argued that this issue should be resolved before taking any action on the IC Staff proposal recommending that the intelligence function in ERDA should be directly responsive to the Administrator--not under the Assistant Administrator for National Security.

2. When raising the issue about where in ERDA the intelligence function might best be located, the fundamental questions about ERDA's qualifications for USIB membership were discussed. While some arguments were given that ERDA should be a consumer of intelligence products, on balance, ERDA's qualifications for USIB membership seem sustained and even reinforced in the transition from AEC. The following--not an exhaustive list--are principal reasons given why ERDA should remain within the USIB community:

a. When AEC was split into the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and ERDA, all intelligence functions were retained by ERDA;

b. While ERDA has its roots in AEC, new responsibilities have been added and a nuclear preoccupation no longer will predominate. Advanced fossil fuel technology, energy conservation, solar and geothermal energy likewise will come under ERDA's umbrella;

c. ERDA will have a role in the foreign arena. An Assistant Administrator for International Affairs will handle all foreign responsibilities, less intelligence;

d. In the future ERDA's intelligence activities will likely be patterned--although much smaller--after State's INR; and finally,

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e. Historically, AEC's technical competence has been applied to many national intelligence problems. Thus, it would seem most impolitic to disinvite ERDA from USIB at this time.


3. While it is appropriate to question ERDA's USIB membership during this transition period, ERDA's increased scope alone makes them an even more legitimate USIB member than they were as AEC.

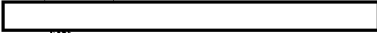


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